	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/487,361	GEOGHEGAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Rachel L. Porter	3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *6/18/07*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-3,5-10 and 22-45 (renumbered as 1-33)*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 20070903.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Trent Kirk, Reg. No. 54,223 on August 30, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

1. A processor-readable medium comprising code representing instructions to cause a

processor to:

- receive guest information from a first guest, said guest information including at

  least one item selected from the group of a name, a market segment, and a point

  of origin;

- receive a room request from said first guest, said room request from said first

  guest including at least one item selected from the group of an arrival date, a

  length of stay, and at least one room attribute;

- determine, based at least partially on the received guest information, a

  predetermined category of guests within which the first guest can be classified,

  the predetermined category of guests including guests having similar guest

  profile information;

- determine, based at least partially on the received room request, a predetermined category of room from which the room request can be satisfied;

- access an inventory of hotel rooms that is organized as a hierarchal combination of a plurality of attributes associated with a room;

    o wherein said hierarchal combination of a plurality of attributes comprises: a plurality of first attribute combinations, second attribute combinations, and third attribute combinations, wherein each said first attribute combination comprises at least one second attribute combination and each said second attribute combination comprises at least one third attribute combination;

- determine whether a room satisfying said at least one room attribute in said room request is available within said inventory of rooms based on said plurality of attributes associated with said room; and

- determine a room rate for said first guest based on the predetermined category of guests and further based on a forecast of demand for a room from the predetermined category of room, said forecast of demand being based on historical data.

Claim 22

22. A system, comprising:

- an interface configured to receive guest information and a room request from a first guest; and

- a processor in communication with the interface, the processor being configured to :

    o determine, based partially on received guest information, a predetermined category of guests within which the first guest can be classified, the predetermined category of guests including guests having similar guest profile information,

    o determine, based at least partially on the room request, a predetermined category of room from which the room request can be satisfied,

    o access an inventory of hotel rooms that is organized as a hierarchal combination of a plurality of attributes associated with a room,

        ▪ wherein said hierarchal combination of a plurality of attributes comprises: a plurality of first attribute combinations, second attribute combinations, and third attribute combinations, wherein each said first attribute combination comprises at least one second attribute combination and each said second attribute combination comprises at least one third attribute combination;

    o determine whether a room satisfying at least one room attribute in said room request is available within said inventory of rooms based on said plurality of attributes associated with said room, and

    o determine a room rate for the first guest based on the predetermined category of guests and further based on a forecast of demand for a room

from the predetermined category of room, the forecast of demand being

based on historical data.

Claim 36

36. A system, comprising:

- a centralized database configured to store historical data and information

    associated with an inventory of rooms for a first lodging property and information

    associated with an inventory of rooms for a second lodging property;

- a first external database in communication with the centralized database, the first

    external database being configured to store inventory information associated with

    the first lodging property, the inventory information including availability

    information and pricing information associated with the first lodging property;

- a second external database in communication with the centralized database, the

    second external database being configured to store inventory information

    associated with the second lodging property, the inventory information including

    availability information and pricing information associated with the second

    lodging property; and

- a reservations management system in communication with the centralized

    database and at least one database selected from the group of the first external

    database and the second external database, the reservations management

    system being configured to:

- o determine, based at least partially on guest information for a guest, a predetermined category of guests within which the guest can be classified, the predetermined category of guests including guests having similar guest profile information,

- o determine, based at least partially on a room request made by the guest, a predetermined category of room from which the room request can be satisfied,

- o access an inventory of hotel rooms that is organized as a hierarchal combination of a plurality of attributes associated with a room,

  - ▪ wherein said hierarchal combination of a plurality of attributes comprises: a plurality of first attribute combinations, second attribute combinations, and third attribute combinations, wherein each said first attribute combination comprises at least one second attribute combination and each said second attribute combination comprises at least one third attribute combination;

- o determine whether a room satisfying at least one room attribute in said room request is available within said inventory of rooms based on said plurality of attributes associated with said room, and

- o determine a room rate for the guest based on the predetermined category of guests a forecast of demand for a room from the predetermined category of room, the forecast of demand being based on historical data received from the centralized database.

Allowable Subject Matter

2.   Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 22-45 are allowed and have been renumbered as 1-33.

3.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 1, 22, and 36, the closest prior art of record, Kerr (USPN 5,404,291), does not teach the use of a hierarchical combination as a plurality of first attribute combinations, second attribute combinations, and third attribute combinations, wherein each said first attribute combination comprises at least one second attribute combination and each said second attribute combination comprises at least one third attribute combination.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5-10, and 23-35, and 37-45 incorporate the allowable subject matter through dependency.

Statutory Subject Matter

As per claim 36, the Examiner understands reservation management system (RMS) as incorporating hardware and software components, therefore making the claim statutory. Figure 1 and page 8 of Applicant's specification describe that RMS may reside on a server or multiple servers and that the hardware platform provides redundancy in case of failure.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachel L. Porter whose telephone number is (571) 272-6775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RP

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